

University Senate
November 9, 2020

The University Senate met in regular session at 3 pm on Monday, November 9, 2020 via video conference. Below is a record of what transpired. All votes were taken with the video conference “raise hand” feature. Specific voting information can be requested from the Office of the Senate Council.

Senate Council Chair Aaron Cramer (EN) called the University Senate (Senate) meeting to order at 3:00 pm. He welcomed those present and informed them that the session was being recorded for note-taking purposes. He asked everyone to use the chat box to sign in for attendance but noted that the chat function is generally used for attendance and would not be monitored during the meeting. He asked everyone to mute themselves. He asked Senate members to send an email to Stephanie Woolery if they become disconnected and cannot reconnect.

He provided guidance on how to participate in the discussion. He welcomed senators and reminded them that Senate follows Robert’s Rules of Order. He asked that senators be civil and good citizens. He also asked everyone to participate in the meetings and share information with colleagues in their home units.

The Chair explained that due to the Election Day holiday, the agenda and related attachments were not sent out six days in advance of the Senate meeting as required by *Senate Rule (SR) 1.2.3*. Therefore, Senate needed to move to waive *SR 1.2.3* to allow the Senate to consider the agenda. Grossman (AS) **moved** to waive *SR 1.2.3* for the November 9, 2020 Senate meeting. Rohr (PH) **seconded**. The Chair asked if there was any debate and there was none. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with one opposed and one abstained.

1. Minutes from October 12, 2020 and Announcements

The Chair reported that no edits were received for the minutes from October 12, 2020. There being **no objections**, the minutes from October 12, 2020 were **approved by unanimous consent**.

The Chair reported that he was appointed by President Capilouto to serve on the Executive Leadership Committee for UK’s Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) reaffirmation site visit. The committee will meet quarterly.

The Chair reported that he and several other Senate-related individuals participated in two, day-long workshops with Gray Associates, who have a contract with the Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) to review/evaluate all programs at state universities. He explained that UK and University of Louisville petitioned to be evaluated under different metrics than regional institutions, but metrics are still focused externally rather than on academic quality.

The Chair reported that SC approved continued work on a “conversion form” that will be used to create a fully online program or add fully online delivery to an existing program. He explained that upon Senate approval of the curriculum and related academic considerations, such programs will be treated administratively as a “fully online program.” This includes application of administrative policies, such as tuition rates and tuition shares.

The Chair reminded Senate of the question last month about UK’s response to President Trump’s executive order on training. He explained that he consulted with Presidential Advisor George Wright who in turn asked General Council Bill Thro about the matter. Thro responded that UK typically does not take a position on federal executive orders, so for this there is no official University position. Leadership is reviewing the executive order and its applicability to any existing programs. President Capilouto will

decide whether to stop or modify this. Farrell (FA) expressed concern about his perception that UK officials indicated publicly that UK's diversity training activities should not have taken place. The Chair said he would follow up on this question regarding diversity training sessions on campus.

The Chair announced results of the recent SC member elections. Members whose terms are ending include Francisco Andrade (ME), Gail Brion (EN), and Allison Soult (AS). New SC members whose terms begin on January 1, 2021 include Marilyn Duncan (ME), Robert Grossman (AS), and Shannon Oltmann (CI). The Chair thanked all of those willing to serve and congratulated new members.

The Chair reminded Senators of curricular proposal deadlines. If seeking a fall 2021 effective date, curricular proposals must first be reviewed by the appropriate academic council(s) (GC, HCCC, UC) and received by the SC office after academic council approval by:

- February 1, 2021 for new degree program proposals.
- March 15, 2021 for other proposals requiring committee review (new certificates, transfers of a degree, new department, change to credit hours required for graduation, significant program changes, etc.).
- April 12, 2021 for courses, all other program changes, and minors.

2. Officer and Other Reports

a. Chair

The Chair reminded Senators that the SRs give SC and the SC Chair authority to take some actions on behalf of the Senate as long as they are reported to the Senate at its next meeting. Actions reported included:

- Approval of nonstandard course calendars for Doctorate of Physical Therapy (DPT) courses for Spring 2021 by SC.
- Approval of course load restriction for 2020-21 Winter Intersession by SC. Students may be enrolled in a maximum of three credit hours but be allowed up to six credit hours with the approval through the dean on a case-by-case basis.

The Chair reported that SC discussed the addition of the new University holiday of Juneteenth and if it should also be established as an academic holiday. SC asked Senate's Rules and Elections Committee (SREC) to resolve the issue of an academic holiday vs. University holiday. If changes are required in the SRs, they will come before Senate for codification.

The Chair reported that recent administrative reorganizations have affected the SRs, particularly regarding ex officio members of Senate committees. He explained that many of the ex officio members who were formerly in the Provost's Office are now in the President's Office. Since the University Board of Trustees (BOT) approves the President's direct reports, updates to the SRs will not be looked at until their approval.

The Chair reported that SC heard an update from Associate Provost of Teaching, Learning, and Academic Innovation Kathi Kern on the summer "badge" pilot. SC is supportive of a continued pilot, but shared Associate Provost Kern's concerns about the need for more faculty oversight. Kern is putting together a group to review badges, which will likely include some senators.

The Chair reminded senators to fill out the faculty work-life survey he sent them at Provost Blackwell's request.

The Chair reported that SC received a request to approve University calendars, including professional and tentative calendars. There were questions about the application of *SR* language on “dead week” for many calendars and because of this, only the Fall 2021 calendar was approved. The remaining calendars will be coming back to SC once “dead week” is addressed.

The Chair reported that the 2019-2020 faculty evaluation of the President results were presented to SC and can be found on the Senate’s website.

b. Provost

Provost Blackwell did not have a report to give.

c. Vice Chair

The Vice Chair DeShana Collett (HS) did not have a report to give.

d. Parliamentarian

Parliamentarian Doug Michael (LA) did not have a report to give.

e. Trustee

Trustee Blonder (ME) reported that the Board of Trustees (BOT) had a retreat on October 15th and 16th via Zoom. Rather than having a typical retreat, there were a series of meetings since they were meeting by webinar. She noted that the presentations and agenda items are listed on the BOT website and the December meeting will be via Zoom if anyone wants to watch it. Other items she reported on included:

- BOT elections had taken place and that Bob Vance will remain Chair, Kim McCann will be Vice Chair, and Rachel Webb Secretary.
- BOT is in the process of doing the President’s evaluation and that SC Chair Cramer reported on the faculty’s survey of the President.
- She and others from UK have been attending the Coalition of Senate and Faculty Leaders (COSFL) meetings via Zoom. CPE President Aaron Thompson and Gray Associates have both spoken at recent COSFL meetings. The next meeting is planned for December.

Trustee Swanson (ME) reported that during her orientation for the Investment Committee, she asked about the extent to which we invest in green technology and decrease our reliance on fossil fuels. Chief Investment Officer Todd Shupp replied that he is working with a student group called Green Thumb.

Trustee Blonder (ME) addressed a question from the floor, clarifying that faculty trustees are eligible to run for BOT leadership positions.

3. Committee Reports

a. Senate’s Retroactive Withdrawal Appeals Committee (SRWAC) - Jim Donovan, Chair

i. 2019-20 Annual Report

The Chair asked if there were any objections to postponing the report until later in the meeting and there were none.

b. Senate’s Academic Organization and Structure Committee - Zack Bray, Chair

i. Proposed Transfer of the Center for Muscle Biology from the College of Medicine to the College of Health Sciences

Bray (LA) explained the proposal. The Chair asked if there were any questions and there were none. The Chair then said that the **motion** on the floor was a recommendation that the University Senate endorse the transfer of the Center for Muscle Biology from the College of Medicine to the College of Health Sciences. Because the motion came from committee, no **second** was required. There was no debate. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed and five abstaining.

c. Senate's Admissions and Academic Standards Committee (SAASC) - Jennifer Bird-Pollan, Chair
i. Proposed Change to Senate Rules for Gatton College of Business and Economics (Add New "Direct Admissions" Section)

Bird-Pollan (LA) explained the proposal. The Chair asked if there were any questions. There was clarification that the proposal refers to calendar year regarding application. There was discussion about the referenced *SRs* in the proposal matching the newly reorganized *SRs*. Associate Dean for Undergraduate Affairs Jennifer Siebenthaler (BE) clarified that incoming freshman must still follow the same prerequisite requirements as all other current students and that seats for graduating seniors are protected. She also noted that analysis was done to ensure that the admission of freshman would not have a negative impact on diversity. In response to a question from Charnigo, Siebenthaler clarified that the references to "following year" refer to the following calendar year.

The Chair then said that the **motion** on the floor was a recommendation that the University Senate approve the proposed changes to Senate Rules regarding direct admissions for Gatton College of Business and Economics. Because the motion came from committee, no **second** was required. There was no debate. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with one opposed and one abstaining.

a. Senate's Retroactive Withdrawal Appeals Committee (SRWAC) - Jim Donovan, Chair
i. 2019-20 Annual Report

Donovan (LA) went over the report and noted that requests are still high, but lower than the previous year. The number of applications is still high enough to justify moving forward with the planned changes to procedures to streamline the workflow. He pointed out that there are ongoing difficulties for applicants because of administrative reasons. These are often due to students who think they have withdrawn online for a semester but have not because the system will not drop a student's last course online. They must do it in person, but they aren't always aware of this. SRWAC recommends that there should be better communication with students about this issue.

4. State of the Libraries Report - Libraries Dean Doug Way

Libraries Dean Doug Way went over the state of the Libraries report which included the budget overview, how budget reductions are impacting collections this year and the coming years, benchmarking, and possible solutions to the challenges Libraries is facing. He shared his contact information and encouraged senators to reach out. The floor was opened for questions and there was discussion about asking the Investment Committee to reconsider the spending policy on endowments. It was noted that there will likely be an increase for interlibrary loans and there could be delays related to it. There was conversation about making streaming video more available for students in their classes.

5. Results of Senators' Survey of Faculty and Students

Vincent (BE) reported on the results of the senators' survey of faculty and students, which included quantitative feedback and the top five themes that emerged from the comments. The Chair reported that he sent the SC's survey report to the President and Provost. Also, SC is in the process of drafting recommendations based on the themes. He noted that although the survey did not focus on work-life balance like the survey from the Provost, it was still a theme that emerged in the faculty responses. He

also reminded senators to fill out the faculty work-life survey he sent them upon Provost Blackwell's request. The floor was opened for questions. There was a suggestion to more widely distribute these surveys using Qualtrics to lessen workload of senators.

6. Items from the Floor

The Chair asked if there were any items from the floor. There was a question about what the plans are going forward related to restoring retirement benefits. The Chair reported that in his conversations with administration, they have indicated that restoring the retirement match is a priority, but in the current budget situation they are not optimistic about being able to do it for the present fiscal year. There was discussion about suggesting to administration that the benefit could be restored in phases.

There was a reminder to senators to consider SC Chair nominees that were emailed to them and to send in nominations by that Friday.

The Chair reminded everyone to take care of themselves as the semester is almost finished. He noted how much work has been done and his hope that everyone will have time to reflect and rest over the winter break. He also reminded everyone that there is a Senate meeting in December 14th.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 pm with no objections.

Respectfully submitted by, DeShana Collett
University Senate Vice Chair

Absences: Abdel-Latif, Andrade, Bauer*, Blackwell, Boyd, Bradley*, Brown (Robyn), Bryan, Campbell*, Cassis, Collins, Davis, DiPaola, Fanucchi, Forren*, Fraser, Gent, Gustafson, Guy, Harper, Heilig, Johnson (Julia), Loftin*, Lumpp, Martin, Mehra, Miller (Hannah), Miller (Jay), Neiheisel, O'Bryan, Okeson, Phillips, Pienkowski, Richey, Sands, Swartz, Tagavi, Vernon*, Vosevich, Wilkinson, Wilson, Wright (Allison), Wright (George), and Yost.

* Denotes an explained absence.

Guests present: Laura Ansel, Karen Badger, Jennifer Bartlett, Anna Bosch, Laura Bryan, James Donovan, James Hartsfield, Davy Jones, Reinet Jones, Joanie Ett-Mims, Jennifer Siebenthaler, and Mary Beth Thomson

Prepared by Stephanie Woolery on November 25, 2020.